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VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

## SUMMER DRINKS.

FRUIT SYRUPS,  
In Bottles at 75 Cents.

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D. C. &amp; Co's

LIQUEUR AND OTHER WHISKIES.

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Per Case, 12 bottles, \$5.50

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ST. GERMAIN.

Per Case, 12 bottles, \$5.50

Per Case, 6 bottles, \$3.00

ST. ESTEPHE.

Per Case, 12 bottles, \$5.50

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK &  
COMPANY, LIMITED,  
VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 14th July, 1894.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.VEGETABLE & FLOWER  
SEEDS.

SEASON 1894-95.

SEED LISTS, with hints for Gardening, are  
NOW READY, and Orders are being booked  
for delivery on arrival of the Seeds. They will  
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received as long as the supply lasts.

EARLY SOWINGS are to hand by Parcel Post

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SOLID WHITE  
MANCHESTER RED  
SULHAM'S PRIZE PINK  
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## CINERARIA:—

MARITIMA  
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## CLAY'S FERTILIZER.

A high-class Fertilizer for Pot Plants and for  
use in the Garden generally: it supplies natural  
nourishment to the soil, and assists the process  
of assimilation, thereby aiding the Plants to  
attain to their full size, vigour and beauty.

Sold in Tins containing 10 lbs. each, \$1.75

25 lbs. do. \$4.50

Directions for Use are given on the Label.

## RANSOME'S "NEW PARIS"

## LAWN MOWERS.

The Best and Cheapest Machines in the Market.  
For Sale at Manufacturers' Prices.

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LD.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong 30th July, 1894.

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## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, MONDAY, JULY 30, 1894.

WANTON DESTRUCTION OF  
OPIUM BY THE GOVERNMENT.

On the 30th November, 1893, we chronicled one of the most extraordinary burials ever witnessed in this land of strange sights and still stranger customs, manners and policy. It was not a hapless victim of the plague or cholera that was consigned to the deep on that occasion, nor was it the lifeless remains of some Government dolt or anything half so uninteresting, for, as a matter of fact, it was the sudden lifeless remains of an opium seizure effected on board the steamer *Pang* some four or five months previously. As no owner of the drug, some 600 taels of prepared Malwa, could be found, no prosecution followed, and after a lengthy official procrastination for the period just named, the Governor-in-Council, by virtue of the provisions contained in sections 38 and 39 of *Ordinance 21* of 1891, decided to finally dispose of the drug by having it decently "buried at sea," instead of selling it to the Opium Farmer who offered about \$150 for it, and who alone has the right to possess prepared opium in this Colony. On that occasion the *Hongkong Telegraph* pointed out that the action of the authorities was neither sensible nor diplomatic and that the Opium Farmer, who made a reasonable offer for the drug, should have been shown not merely every possible consideration, but the most extreme liberality.

One would have thought that the exhibition of short-sightedness to which we then felt bound to draw attention would have sufficed for a decade at least. Not so, however, for on Friday last the Inspector of the Water Police, acting under the orders of the Government issued through the Captain Superintendent of Police, destroyed by fire seven balls of raw opium which had been picked up in the harbour a few weeks previously by a *lukung* and for which the Opium Farmer had, in the usual way, made an offer which the Government again declined to accept—on the ground, we believe, that it was not sufficient. Now, it is perfectly clear that the Government has stultified itself in this as in the previous instance by entering into negotiations with the Opium Farmer and then subsequently deciding to follow the precedent set by the British Customs of destroying all contraband goods seized by its officers. In this case the loss to the revenue does not amount to much—something under \$1000 we understand—but that is not the point. Considering the large sum annually contributed to our revenue by the lessee of the Opium Farm, it would certainly appear to be the Government's most judicious policy to show him the greatest consideration, within the limits of the law and the interests of the colony, in every possible direction; but the contrary has been the case, as shown by the two petty exhibitions of official mud-headedness to which we have above referred. Had any difference as to the price of an article arisen in any commercial house, a neutral arbitrator would at once have been selected to settle the matter in dispute; but unfortunately for the ratepayers the Government of Hongkong is not managed on business principles, and in the instances under review the colony's money has been wantonly wasted and probably the future revenue from the Opium Farm considerably reduced.

## TELEGRAMS.

## THE WAR IN THE NORTH.

LONDON, 27th July.

Reuters' agent in Shanghai wires that war has been declared between China and Japan.  
It is reported that several Chinese warships are in trouble.  
The Korean telegraph lines are interrupted.

## THE LIVERPOOL CUP.

The LIVERPOOL CUP (handicap): Cup course, one mile and three furlongs.  
Duke of Beaufort's b. c. Son of a Gun, by Petronel—Jibsona.  
Mr. J. H. Hoadworth's b. c. Basher Park, by Jameton—Sunshine.  
Mr. P. Buchanan's b. h. Newcourt, by Highborn—Orange Blossom, R.W. Colling 3.

## THE EVICTION BILL.

The *Evicted Tenants Bill* (Ireland) has passed the second reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 32.

## THE WAR IN THE NORTH.

Private telegraphic advices received here from Tientsin this forenoon are to the effect that the Chinese have been severely defeated by the Japanese at Asan and near Pingyang, in Korea.

## TYPHOON WARNING.

Mr. E. Oris, Spanish Consul at this port, courteously informs us that he has received the following telegram from Manila:—

"There is a depression north-east of Manila in the Pacific."

The weather forecast issued by the Acting Director of the Observatory to-day contains the following remarks:—On the 30th at 11.17 a.m., the barometer falling at Bollnau. Gradients gentle. On the 30th at 11.30 a.m., the barometer falling slightly on the south-east coast, and there are some indications of a depression to the Eastward in the Pacific. Gradients gentle. Sea smooth. Weather fine.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Aden* left Bombay for this port on the 28th inst.

G. SHARP'S latest in our next issue. No space available to-day for the Grand Old Dodger.

The Russian steamer *Tanbaf* arrived at Hankow on the 19th instant for last legs for Odessa.

THE disabled steamer *Shigen* arrived at Shanghai on the 22nd inst., in tow of the *Tungchow*.

THE Canadian Pacific R.R. Co.'s steamship *Empress of India* arrived at Vancouver on the 27th inst. at 7 p.m.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Sanitary Board will be held to-morrow at 4.15 p.m., to consider the question of the Separate System.

THE P. M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, with mail, &c., left San Francisco for this port, via Yokohama, on the 26th inst.

THE returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ended, July 29th, are:—Europeans, 89; Chinese, 440; total 529.

RELIABLE information reaches us that a couple of plague-stricken corpses were landed from a steamer in Kowloon Bay on Saturday and duly "planted" a short distance in the interior.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that next Monday, August 6th, being a Bank Holiday, will be observed as a holiday by the Government Departments.

THE "blue funnel" steamer *Momon*, Capt. Branch, which went into dock last Thursday, came out to-day, and will leave for Kudat and Sandakan to-morrow.

Berlin Blet (angrily)—Vots dot? Old Soak (taking it calmly from his pocket)—That is G. Sharp's patent elixir of life. Berlin Blet—Ach, Donner und blitzen! I change it for ein pot of tchin.

WE have received from Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., "A Descriptive Dictionary of British Malaya," by Dr. N. B. Denney, a large and handsomely got up volume, which we hope to review at length later on.

COLONEL BARROW paraded the Hongkong Regiment at Kowloon on Saturday, but was unsuccessful in discovering the perpetrators of the outrage reported in our columns recently. The Afghan warriors all pleaded ignorance.

THE twentieth birthday of the Emperor Kwang-su caused a very little excitement in local Chinese circles last Saturday. *La poste telegraphique* has knocked all the celebration *glades* out of the vast majority of our Celestial neighbours for a long time to come.

WE regret to observe that dysentery is prevalent in Bangkok and with fatal effects. A number of deaths have been reported recently, among other victims being Capt. Williams, of the ship *Tweeddale*, and Mr. Carl Lampe, son of a well-known Bangkok pilot.

SPECIMEN of original writ from Saturday's *China Mail*!—"The small Chinese emigrants who are in Hongkong harbour showed all their banding to-day in honour of the Emperor's birthday—not the Dowager Empress, we understand, but the plain, ordinary, common-or-garden Emperor."

It appears, according to a Sandakan correspondent, that Brother Pollock, who was a passenger to British North Borneo by the *Mamoa* on her last trip, intends to practice in Sandakan for a few months. "Probably until Hongkong has somewhat recovered from the plague scare."

RESIDENTS at Kowloon were enlightened on Saturday night by a much-needed treat—Our Very Own "Banzai" with performance of excellent selection of music in capital style. We believe that the Band of the Hongkong Regiment will play twice a month at Kowloon throughout the summer.

WE are assured by the most reliable authorities that the deaths from bubonic plague in Canton from the 1st January to the 10th June totalled over 15,000. The ordinary Canton death-rate is a trifle over a thousand per month. The deaths in Hongkong from plague up to date are estimated by the Chinese, who know something about the subject, to range between six and eight thousand.

Juggles—Another half-dozen blessing errors creep into the columns of the *Shan* on Saturday night.

Muggins—Why, don't you know that 'Brownie's' proof-reader has gone to Korea as special W.R. Correspondent? The *Shan* is going to bring him now, I can tell you.

Juggles—It's about time it did, or it will die of dullness and inanition.

THERE were only five competitors for the Hongkong Rifle Association's "Long Range" cup on Saturday afternoon. Commander Ashe, R.N., eventually proving successful by scoring 39 at the eight and 31 at the nine hundred yards, which, with a handicap allowance of five points, brought up his total to 75. Captain Moore, 12 points allowed, made 36 and 24 respectively at the two ranges, and was a good second with a total of 79 points.

On the authority of Capt. Forbes, Superintendent of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamers, the foreign vessels lately purchased, with their Japanese names, are as follows:—

<i>Factor</i> .....	re-named <i>Meiji-maru</i> .
<i>Domed</i> .....	<i>Gensan-maru</i> .
<i>Moray</i> .....	<i>Yamaguchi-maru</i> .
<i>Harpist</i> .....	<i>Saya-maru</i> .
<i>Dardanus</i> .....	<i>Osaka-maru</i> .
<i>Tartar</i> .....	<i>Kobe-maru</i> .
<i>Phalaris</i> .....	<i>Sakura-maru</i> .
<i>Ishtar</i> .....	<i>Himeki-maru</i> .
<i>Myrina</i> .....	<i>Sikoku-maru</i> .

THE excitement amongst Chinese official circles in Shanghai to-day, says the *China Gazette* of last Thursday, was greater than it has been any day since the trouble arose, and the Tientsin and his staff were up all night, we hear, waiting for telegrams from the Viceroys of these provinces and from the provinces of the north, thus showing that the Viceroys Li knew that the Japanese were about to take some decisive steps to force his hand. The Chinese are vastly excited and the popular voice is loud in favour of war, but is angry that it should be left to Japan to declare it.

We learn that Mr. J. Jones, warden of Victoria Gaol, has resigned after seven years' service, and will leave for home on a portion of about £150 per annum in the English mail on Thursday. He will be temporarily succeeded by Mr. James Hodge, head turnkey, until a new warden arrives from England. Why a new man should be brought out from home to fill this important position in the Gaol is not clear, seeing that local experience and acquaintance with the Chinese language are distinct advantages in a gaol almost entirely stocked with Chinese prisoners. But, of course, the most expensive course is always the best to follow in all events. It is the case invariably followed—in this colony. Mr. Hodge is an officer of extensive experience, an exceptionally well conducted and reliable man, and the wisdom of his long service should have certainly entitled him to the best consideration of the Government.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Java* left Singapore for this port on the 26th inst. at 6 p.m.

THE *Shanghai Mercury* of July 23rd bears that in the event of war between China and Japan, the China Merchants' Co.'s steamers will be "laid up."

Drs. AOYAMA and Kitasato are to be represented by a gold cup by their admirers at Nagasaki in recognition of their investigations at Hongkong into the plague bacillus.

THE steamship *Adagay* arrived at Kobe from this port on the 21st, after a passage of eight days, and was at once placed in quarantine at Wada Point, but for one day only.

THE manager of the mines at Raub wired to Singapore on the 23rd instant:—"Crushing finished. 1,400 tons of stone realised 355 ounces of smelted gold. Battery stopped for erecting additional eight stamps."

WORKING cargo on Sundays in British North Borneo, unless under special permits from the authorities, has been prohibited, under penalties up to a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for one month. Permits are issued at from three to five dollars per hour.

Hsueh FU-CHANG, late Chinese Minister to Great Britain, France, &c., died very suddenly at Shanghai on Saturday the 21st inst. He had only recently returned from Europe and was preparing to leave Shanghai for his native place when he was taken ill.

ACCORDING to a telegram in a Japanese paper, dated Nagasaki July 20th, the Nagasaki Coal Co. has reported 1,800 tons of Kanetsu and Hirado coals to Shanghai by the British steamer *Malta*, and another British steamer has taken coal to Shanghai from Kuchinotsu.

SEVEN balls of raw opium picked up in the harbour about two months ago by a *lukung*, and for which the Opium Farmer's offer was declined, were burnt last Friday night by Inspector Corcoran, chief of the Water Police, by order of the Government issued through the Captain Superintendent of Police.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha mail steamer *Kobe Maru*, which left Kobe on the 21st at daylight for Shanghai, was stopped at Nagasaki, and her mails and passengers were probably taken on to their destination by the British steamer *Anger*, which is under charter to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and was circulated for despatch from Kobe on the 22nd inst.

THE Japanese paper *Hochi Shimbun* notices a decrease of five million yen in the specie reserves of the Nippon Ginko during the last few weeks; nearly two millions went in the week ending on the 23rd. The contemporary attributes part of this to the balance of trade being against Japan of late, but mainly to Government expenditures in connection with Korean affairs.

THE Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration notify that from to-day and until further notice, no telegrams respecting the China-Japan war, and no code or cipher telegrams of any description can be accepted. Code telegrams are also prohibited over the Sharp Peak-Cochon line, and no telegrams for Foochow will be forwarded unless written in plain English.

Editor of *Daily Wai*—"I'm going to make our paper very attractive in future."

Editor—"By slumping in a lot of the pictorial 'ads' we used to fill space with some years ago. It's so hard to fill up with good reading matter now-a-days."

THE *Kobe Chronicle* says that the Ono Naval Yard, like a Government establishment just now, is reported to be very busy. Out of sixteen torpedo-boats in hand, seventeen have already been completed, and the remaining two will soon be out of hand. The labourers employed in the yard have been increased from five to seven hundred, and work in the various departments is being pushed forward night and day.

A CHINESE local contemporary is stated to have received a telegram from Shanghai this forenoon to the effect that it was the Indo-China Co.'s steamer *Kowshing*, and not the China Merchants' *Toson*, which was sunk by the Japanese war-ships on the 25th inst., whilst conveying Chinese troops to Korea. According to the Chinese paper, over a thousand lives were lost, boats from a French gunboat picking up forty men.

THE *Strait Times* of the 23rd inst. reports that the British ship *Abbie S. Hart*, bound from Hilo to Delaware Bay with a cargo of sugar, stranded on Lucupara reef in the Straits of Banca, early this month, upon which the steamer *Graaf Van Bylandt* went to her assistance. The steamer brought the *Abbie S. Hart* off the reef, and towed her to Tientsin, where she arrived on the 18th inst. It was said, that in order to be overhauled and repaired, she would have to be discharged and go into dock there.

THE following are the weights for the One Mile Handicap at next Saturday's Gymkhana:—  
Mr. J. M. Forbes' gr. Glenalra, 12st. 8lb.  
Mr. David Gillies' gr. Silver King, 12st.  
Mr. R. Fraser-Smith's d. Duart, 11st. 13lb.  
Mr. Cruickshank's gr. Havoc, 11st. 5lb.  
Mr. R. Fraser-Smith's gr. Waver, 11st. 5lb.  
Mr. R. Fraser-Smith's bl. Black Douglas, 10st. 13lb.  
Mr. R. M. Gray's gr. Exile, 10st. 12lb.  
Mr. Cruickshank's br. Gunadeen, 10st. 10lb.  
Mr. R. Fraser-Smith's gr. Catterthun, 10st. 8lb.  
Mr. Salop's b. Old Giles, 10st.

A RUMOUR now current in native circles, says the *N. C. Daily News*. It is that the Chinese commanders find that the Japanese have so strongly fortified the approaches to Korean treaty ports that they consider it safer for an attacking expedition not to land at Yashan, or Trench Hill, 70 miles from Chemulpo. Another rumour is that Liu Ming-chuan has already arrived at Tientsin and will go on to Korea, having been made, by Imperial decree, supreme commander of the forces of the three north-eastern provinces (Peking, Kien and Heilungkiang), while the leader of the troops in Korea will be General Seng, commander-in-chief of the Viceroys Li's special troops, bearing the name of his earldom of Shunli. This last report comes, it is said, from reliable sources.

THE proposal for the United States Consul-General in Yokohama to take the Chinese residents under his wing and the protection of the Stars and Stripes during the Korean complications has been under consideration. Mr. W. W. Melver, the Consul-General, on being interviewed by a representative of the *Yokohama Gazette*, admitted that such was the case, but considered that his power could only go to the extent of taking charge of the Chinese Consular records. Without special instructions from Washington and the consent of the Japanese Government it was out of the question for him attempting to assume judicial protection over Chinese subjects. And was having been declared, there can be little doubt that all the Chinese in the treaty port have already been requested to leave by first opportunity.

THE French flagship *Bayard* arrived at Yokohama on the 20th inst.

THE China Merchants' steamer *Fushun* still remains in port, waiting orders from Shanghai.

THE Formosa Government's steamer *Cass* went up to Canton yesterday to take in troops etc., for Keelung.

THE locally well-known steamship *Avocle* changed ownership at Kobe on the morning of the 21st inst., and now flies the Japanese flag.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO  
STEAMBOAT COMPANY.

The fifty-sixth ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the Company's office, Bank Buildings, at noon to-day. The Hon. E. R. Bellios, (Chairman), presided, and there were also present Messrs. F. A. Gomes, J. Kramer, H. Hopplis, and Poon Pong, (Directors), Mr. T. Arnold, (Secretary). Messrs. J. J. Gomes, Woon Hon, Chun Chai, A. T. Gomes, J. de Silva, E. J. Moore, Capt. A. Tillett, James H. Cox, F. Henderson, G. Fenwick, H. E. R. Hunter, and J. D. Humphreys.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in addressing the shareholders, said—Gentlemen, the report has now been in your hands for some days and with your permission will be taken as read. With regard to the earnings of our steamers, I may say that collectively our gross receipts show about \$7,000 improvement on those of the first half of 1893. As stated in the report, however, expenses have been heavier. In the first place our coal contract is some 33 per cent. in advance of last year's rate; then again, owing to the low rate of exchange, the remittance for our insurance this year cost us about \$3,000 more than it did last year, and for the same cause there has been a material advance in the prices of ship-chandlery and almost every article used in the Company's business.

The result of all this has been an increase of expenditure amounting to something like \$14,000; still, but for the recent epidemic, notwithstanding this increase of running expenses, we would have been able to show you a decided improvement upon the earnings of last year. The receipts for the months of May and June on all the lines show a heavy falling off both as compared with the same months last year and the first four months of the current year, and your Directors estimate the loss of business to the Company during those two months, when the plague was at its height, at not less than \$15,000. All things considered, then, I think we may congratulate ourselves upon the fact that our net earnings only show a decrease of about \$2,000. Harping again upon an old grievance, I regret to say that there is still no improvement in the position of affairs regarding the differential duty question, but shareholders may rely upon it that this important matter will not be allowed to drop. The item of repairs is somewhat heavy, but here again I think we are adversely affected by the low rate of exchange. Nothing, however, has been done but what was absolutely necessary for the proper up-keep of the steamers, and to comply with the law. But for the Shipping Ordinance some of this expense might, perhaps, be avoided without detriment to the steamers. The new propellers for the *Hongkong*, though expensive at the outset, will in the long run save money. The *Kiangchow*, which has been lying idle for a long time, has now been disposed of. Your Directors had hoped to realise her to better advantage, but as by the conditions of her sale she would have been precluded from river traffic and the expenditure of a considerable sum would have been necessary to fit her for any other trade, it was thought best, bearing in mind the fact that she was costing the Company some \$1,500 a year, to accept an offer to purchase her for breaking up. She is now expanded from our books, and the Company's fleet stands at the round figure of 6,000 tons, or roughly speaking, about ten galleons of ton. I do not think that there is anything more that I can usefully add, but before putting the adoption of the report and accounts to the meeting, I shall be happy to answer any questions that may suggest themselves to shareholders.

Captain Tillett—I see you have a very large sum of money (\$225,000) in the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, as a fixed deposit. Is it there on fixed deposit or as a loan?

The Chairman—Is that all you wish to know?

Captain Tillett—No, I have a few other questions to ask.

The Chairman—The money is on fixed deposit, for which the Company holds ample collateral security in the shape of Bank shares (i.e. shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation).

Captain Tillett—We've got a lot of capital, about £1,276,000 sterling, almost idle, bringing in interest at, say, 6 per cent. per annum. No doubt it is a very safe interest on safe investments, but it seems to me this should be reduced so that the shareholders could have more benefit from it. I think such a large amount should not be locked up in this way. There seems no reason why the present shareholders should not reap the benefit of a return of a substantial amount. I'd like to know what the Board think about it?

The Chairman—A few months ago we received a suggestion of this kind from Shanghai shareholders. Your directors replied to that communication that they were awaiting the decision of the shareholders on the subject of the necessity of the West River being opened up to the commerce of the world without delay. Surely shareholders would not wish to stultify themselves by withdrawing capital now and then when the West River is thrown open and the funds to build ships!

Mr. Fenwick—We could raise money on debentures.

Captain Tillett—It seems to me that the pressure in connection with the West River project has no more effect than the interminable negotiations in respect to the Woonsee Bar. We don't seem to get ahead at all, and there is less hope of success now owing to the dispute between China and Japan. The question is, whether in the near future some return of capital should be made and then, if necessary, as suggested by some one just now, raise money on debentures later on.

The Chairman—Time must be allowed for the consideration of such matters.

Captain Tillett—I should be the last to press the question unduly, but I think something should be done.

The Chairman—It would be more dignified to use one's own money.

Captain Tillett—It all seems wholly problematical about the West River and its opening may not be realised in our lifetime.

Mr. Fenwick—The same excuse has been made over and over again. I think the directors should seriously consider the question.

After a good deal of further discussion, during which the Chairman referred to "the bumptiousness of the Chinese Government" and expressed the hope that it would be more amenable to reason at this critical juncture than heretofore, it was finally decided that Captain Tillett should put his question in the form of a resolution at the next half-yearly meeting of the Company, and that if the meeting was in favour of the proposal an extraordinary meeting of shareholders would be promptly called to decide upon steps to be taken. The Chairman in the course of his remarks referred to the opposition of small Chinese-owned steamers on the Canton river, and added that it might be ultimately found expedient to run steamers on the Yangtze River. Captain Tillett, however, advised the Chairman not to enter upon such a risky undertaking.

Mr. Cox—Is the Chinese Government bound to open the West River?

The Chairman—Yes, probably as a *quid pro quo* for something else.

Upon the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Fenwick, the report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

Messrs. Gomes and Poon Pong were re-elected directors, and Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdlin and F. Henderson re-appointed auditors for the ensuing half year.

The Chairman—That concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend Warrants will be ready at 2 a.m. to-morrow.

## THE NAVAL YARD POLICE.

## THE LORDS' COMMISSIONERS' DECREE.

We understand that radical changes are about to be effected in the constitution and pay of the Naval Yard Police Force, in accordance with instructions recently received by Commodore Boys from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. From what we can gather the new orders are the result of a petition forwarded to the Admiralty some months ago by the members of the local Naval Yard Police, who contended that the great fall in the sterling value



Twenty-four hours ending 5.30 o'clock on Saturday afternoon.—Admissions, 10; death, 0; discharged, 5; remaining under treatment, 40. Up to 5 p.m. yesterday the returns were as follows:—Admissions, 5; death, 1; discharged, 2; remaining under treatment, 46.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.]

## BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."  
SIR,—The "Borneo Notes" published in your issue of 29th June are so misleading to the public that I would ask you to be good enough to find space for this reply.  
Your "Own Correspondent" begins by presuming that outside friends will be interested to know that tobacco sold at the rate of guineas 2.85 gives a profit of over 300 per cent! My reply is that he has made a gross blunder, so gross that the seller of the tobacco in question has by an excess of only 15 cents escaped the serious charge of having stolen the crop and sold it free of freight, charges, and commission, etc. In Amsterdam I do not doubt several companies will make large profits, but these wild exaggerations can bear no relation to the actual state of the country and the name of the writer. What can the public think of such a statement? Will not readers and people interested in the country be more satisfied to know that it is progressing most satisfactorily, as proved by recent tobacco prices; that Capt. Barnett has finally settled the little troubles, not in Marudu Bay but nearer Kluabalu; that the "extra police" were sent to or required in Darvel Bay; that the cruiser *Patience* went there to enquire into a rumour that the natives were hostile, but found no cause for alarm or assistance; that the local forces are sufficient for all requirements; and that the Administrator of the three states, if misled as to the strength of the forces, is now perfectly satisfied on the point.

Your correspondent's remarks about squabbling are equally misleading, and if any ever did exist the chief offenders doubtless have themselves to thank for them, and for the want of sympathy shown when the truth became known. As to the recent "arbitration" case, it was a friendly arrangement as to who should pay a sum of \$35, and I would ask your correspondent to enquire whether the arbitrator's written decision confirms his remarks? I say quite the reverse. Not should your correspondent forget that in the entire of his duty as an officer he has to receive information, he ought to do so without fear, favour or shyness, no matter who it may concern or what your correspondent or others may think.

I believe that the Court of Directors, the Governor, and the community are perfectly satisfied as to the fitness of all the officers retained when circumstances and the depression in the tobacco industry enabled the Court to reduce their staff.

As your correspondent states that Governor Cresswell is fully "alive to" and fully capable of meeting the situation, he will be better able to meet any unforeseen difficulties which may arise, if people like your correspondent will attend to their own business, and if people who have squabbles will settle them amongst themselves without making "copy" for correspondents.

Your correspondent is not known to me, but judging from his "Notes" I conclude that he has no stake or interest in the country.

## ONE WHO HAS A STAKE.

Sandakan, 15th July, 1894.  
[We gladly find space for the foregoing letter, although it is more hair-splitting and captious criticism of the feeblest kind. There is only one point to which we need particularly refer, which is the conclusion that "Our Correspondent" has no stake or interest in the country. That conclusion is utterly erroneous. The sentence ending "without making 'copy' for correspondents," borders on the impertinent.—Ed., Hongkong Telegraph.]

## THE JAPANESE ARMY.

The following able and interesting article, evidently the work of an experienced German officer who has had practical experience in the Japanese Army, is translated by our Shanghai morning contemporary from *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd*:—

When three decades ago, Japan awoke out of the sleep of her isolation and attached herself to the civilisation of the West, her first care was the re-organisation of her army. The result may truly be called a triumph. Thus the Ministry of War now possesses a standing army of at least fifty thousand men, of which 100,000 are in the field equipped and armed as well as the best armies of the West. Each of these soldiers has passed at least one year of a active service, and by far the greater number three years. And yet only a quarter of a century ago the Japanese soldier still wore great grotesque iron-voiced helmets, with which to frighten the enemy, chain and lacquer cuirasses to make his blows harmless, and at his head a shield with a fan in his hand. Was there any cause present that led Japan to remodel her army with such a feverish haste? Without a doubt this was the case, for various elements contributed to keep alive in the Land of the Rising Sun the fear of complications with a foreign Power. China, which looks upon Japan as a traitor towards Asia, gave constant cause for alarm; in the Loo-Choo Islands and in Korea a series of misunderstandings of a threatening character have occurred, and the latter country especially has always been held likely sooner or later to prove an apple of discord in Oriental politics. The events of the last few weeks have given evidence that in this matter Japan has not gone wrong.

By the abolition of the Daimios, or feudal princes, after the restoration of 1868—a voluntary and patriotic process by which their enormous revenues were reduced ninety per cent, and as they were no longer in a position to support their great armies of dependents, the Samurai—a proud and noble-born caste of warriors, which composed some ten per cent of the population—found themselves deprived of their bread and so it was not difficult to incorporate them in the army. Although the Samurai was a warrior and a brave one to boot still his employment as a unit of a modern army was complicated with many difficulties; for he frequently found himself placed in subordination to persons of inferior rank and from whom, except for their uniform, respect was due to him. For this reason it was hard to enforce discipline, and the incorporation of the Samurai merely served to fill the gap between the two poles of feudal service on the one hand and the conscription on the other. This last was made law in Japan in 1874, and from this year dates the introduction of the modern military system into Japan. The army ordinances were somewhat altered ten years later, the strength of the troops was raised, but with sundry subsequent additions and alterations, these form the actual military system of Japan.

The first article prescribes universal military service. Every Japanese is liable to service from his seventeenth to his fortieth year. The land army is thus apportioned:—1.—The standing army. 2.—The reserve of the standing army. 3.—The reserve. 4.—The territorial army. The

soldier has to serve three years in the standing army, four years in the reserve of the standing army, five years in the reserve and eleven years in the territorial army. This the full term of service is theoretically twenty-three years—the interval between 17 and 40—but practically only twelve years; for, while the forces under No. 2 and No. 3 serve sixty days in each year, the territorial army is only called out in case of war. As in Germany, so in Japan, those who hold an examination certificate of a certain class need only serve one year; these volunteers must feed and clothe themselves. Seeing, however, that the annual levy, if strictly enforced, would bring in many more recruits than the Government requires—(it is reckoned that 200,000 new recruits are annually available)—a system of exemptions has been arranged. Thus, in addition to cripples and the like, the following exemptions have been introduced:—Persons under 4 feet 11½ inches in height; one of two brothers summoned simultaneously, or one who already has a brother in the army; the brother of a man who has died or been crippled in the service; heads of families; priests; teachers in the public schools; students attending educational establishments acknowledged by the Government; physicians, and Government officials whose obligatory service cannot be undertaken by others. But even after these exceptions, which amount to an average of 40 per cent of the population liable to military service, the numbers are still larger than required. For this reason a peculiar system of surplus numbers has been devised, whereby those recruits who draw a surplus lot only serve one year and then pass into the standing army reserve. The number of these "surplus" men is thus fixed.

The organisation of the Japanese army diverges somewhat from that of European forces. This one regiment of infantry consists of three battalions, each of four companies; on the peacetime, one company has five officers, 27 under-officers and 160 privates, and is thus 192 men strong; on a war footing the company is reinforced by 80 privates, bringing the company up to 272 men. In peace, a regiment of infantry comprises four commanding officers, 65 officers, 340 under-officers and 1,920 privates all told, including nine non-combatant officers, 2,347 men and 12 horses. In time of war the regiment is brought up to 2,880 men. The cavalry battalion has a peace strength of 159 men and 135 horses and, on a war footing, of 189 men and 140 horses. The battery of artillery, two of which form a brigade, is composed of 18 men with 86 horses and four guns, or on a war footing 10 gunners and two guns are added. Thus in time of peace a brigade consists of one commanding officer, 240 gunners and nine non-combatant officers, or all told, 306 men, 8 guns and 180 horses. The artillery is armed with seven and a half centimetre guns of an Italian model, manufactured at the Japanese arsenal in Osaka.

The Imperial Guard, and *Corps d'élite*, comprising all arms, is a special division of troops permanently quartered in Tokyo. Their uniform is distinguished by a red band round the cap, that of all the other troops being yellow. This *Garda-corps* is composed of two infantry regiments, one battalion of cavalry, one brigade of artillery and one company of pioneers. In addition to the troops of the line and this *Garda-corps*, the Military Academy, the military Staff College and the gendarmerie are included in the total of effective troops.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese army is his Royal Highness General Prince Arisugawa, an uncle of the Emperor. He is President of the General Bureau of State (*Sanbo Hombu*), which answers to our Ministry of War. While the Minister of War collects and organises the troops, the Commander-in-Chief leads and directs them. For military purposes Japan is divided into seven districts, in each of which is stationed one division of the army under the command of a General.

The practical result of the arrangement and the organisation described above is a Japanese army with a paper strength of 210,000 men. The following table exhibits in a simple form all the divisions of which it is composed, as also their distribution. The statistics are for the year 1891; the numbers to-day would show but little alteration.

Division	Geographical	Strength
1. Tokyo	The Capital	9,210
2. Sendai	Main Island (North)	8,970
3. Nagoya	Middle (East)	8,267
4. Osaka	Middle	8,655
5. Hiroshima	Middle (West)	7,223
6. Kumamoto	South	7,476
7. Yezo (Militia)	North (Yezo)	1,461
Imperial Guard, Tokyo		5,591
		56,803

Military schools ..... 2,910  
Gendarmerie ..... 1,376  
Reserves ..... 101,273  
Territorial army ..... 44,939  
Central Staff ..... 2,014

Total strength ..... 209,315  
The personnel of these totals consists of:—  
Staff ..... Non-commissioned  
Officers ..... 450  
3,350  
10,391  
193,804

The proportion of the different arms in Japan, active as well as reserve, (with the exception of the military schools, the central staff, etc.) may be seen from the subjoined table:—

	Active	Reserve	Total
Infantry	38,089	64,293	102,382
Cavalry	671	788	1,459
Artillery	3,817	4,064	7,881
Pioneers	1,708	1,814	3,522
Trains	548	54,458	55,006
Gendarmerie	1,435	1	1,436
Total	45,268	125,418	170,686

What strikes one in the above table is the extremely disproportionately small number of cavalry. The reason of this may be that they are of opinion in Japan that, owing to the mountainous nature of the country, but little use can be made of this branch of their armament. Still 1,500 mounted soldiers in an army of 170,000 would most assuredly not suffice to do the work of pioneers and escort duties. This branch has since 1876 been raised to about 3,000 men. The small difference in the active and reserve trains is also remarkable. The proportion of men enlisted is 17 per cent of the population; of these at most 4 to 5 per cent are drawn into active service, while of those offering, some 40 per cent are not called upon to serve. How many of these 310,000 men could be despatched as gendarmes to a war is a question which we must leave unanswered.

Finally, with regard to the drill and discipline of the Japanese army, there is not much to be said; at least little that would be new to a European; for the Westerner who would look to find in their drill anything of the picturesque or amusing, such as he finds in China, would be disappointed. The drill is copied exactly from that of European troops, especially that of Germany. The Japanese army is in reality a European force, and any one of their army divisions, with the exception of the cavalry, which is small and would look badly mounted, might march through the streets of any town on the Continent without, at first sight, being recognised as Oriental troops. Every foreign expert who has had occasion to see Japanese

infantry at drill, has expressed his admiration at the manner in which the various evolutions were carried out, evolutions which would do credit to a crack regiment of the Prussian guard. The squadron drill of the cavalry is also excellent, though spoilt by the miserable appearance of the ponies. The artillery leaves nothing to be desired, and the shooting practice is good. In the event of a war between China and Japan, there cannot be a doubt that the latter would win the first battles, or less the numbers of the Chinese forces were very largely in excess of the Japanese. And, looking to the fact that China is in a position to be able at any time to send millions of the raw material of soldiers into the field, it requires no prophetic eye to see what the final result of a China-Japanese war would be.

## THE KOREAN TROUBLE.

We append the latest details, called from our Japanese exchanges received this afternoon:—Chinese residents at Seoul are hurriedly leaving the capital.

Lieut.-Col. Fukushima and Mr. Motono have arrived at Jinsen and are proceeding to Seoul. An Imperial ordinance has been issued establishing gendarmerie stations in Kanagawa and Nagasaki.

The Russian Resident has visited the Korean King and engaged in a secret and lengthy conversation. The Japanese Government ordered Mr. Otori on July 21st to present an ultimatum to the Korean Government.

The Japanese troops in Korea are reported to be suffering from dysentery. A number of deaths have occurred.

Some 700 Chinese were said to have already fled Yokohama for home; another three thousand are yet in the city.

The Russian of Russia's preparation for despatching a force to Korea is contradicted. No Russian marines have arrived in Seoul.

Twelve thousand Chinese soldiers in eight transports and eight war-ships were to leave Tientsin for Korea yesterday or today. Steamers running regularly to Hokkaido from Matsue have been chartered for the Government and traffic is again stopped.

A despatch from Seoul, dated 19th inst., says that the construction of a telegraph line between Seoul and Fusan has been commenced by the Japanese.

A telegram received by the *Osaka Mainichi* affirms the news that it has been decided by the Foreign Ministers in Seoul not to regard Jinsen as a neutral port.

The Chinese Minister to Seoul has left Jinsen by a war-ship for home. Most of the Chinese women at Seoul have moved to Jinsen.

News from Tokyo says that the whole of the staff at the Chinese Legation is ready to leave at a moment's notice. The Minister is said to have already started for home.

Tokyo papers report that the contractor for the erection of Japanese barracks in Korea despatched a first contingent of one hundred workmen thither on the 16th.

In case of hostilities it is understood that the foreign quarter in Seoul will be regarded as neutral by both parties. A Red-Cross Society has been organised there with the American Minister as President, and a promise has been obtained that the International Code of Geneva shall be observed by possible combatants.

The Chinese Northern Squadron was to leave Tientsin on the 20th for Jinsen. A Shanghai telegram says that the Chinese Government has chartered three British steamers as transports.

The *Nichi Nichi* reports that the Korean Government has promised Mr. Otori that if he orders the Japanese troops to leave Korea then they will accept his advice and execute the administrative reforms.

Two torpedo-boats are being pushed forward with all possible despatch. Onboard for the Korean Admiralty station. Seven hundred hands are now employed in the local works. These craft will be the eighteenth and nineteenth of their kind built here.

Vicount Kabayama's appointment to the Presidency of the Central Naval Headquarters is regarded by Tokyo papers as an indication of approaching war. The Vicount has the reputation of being one of Japan's best commanders.

If an extra issued by the *Osaka Mainichi* on the afternoon of the 20th may be trusted, the Chinese Minister in Tokyo is preparing to leave. Active preparations are said to be in progress in the Chinese Legation in Tokyo for an early withdrawal.

A Portuguese visitor at a hotel in Hyogo is suspected as a spy of the Chinese Government, or at least as an agent for the purchase of coal. He has been observed in constant intercourse with the Chinese and others, but it is not known to have any Japanese friends.

An *Osaka Mainichi* "extra" yesterday afternoon reported the Chinese Legation at Seoul preparing to withdraw at short notice; also a request from the Korean Government to Mr. Otori to withdraw the Japanese troops from Korea before urging them further to reform the administration.

The *Tokyo Nichi Nichi* is reported to have issued an "extra" on the 19th containing a report that the Chinese Government has decided to despatch twelve thousand troops to Korea. The force was to embark on the 19th and 20th inst., in eight men-of-war and eight transports.

It is stated in the *Yifu* that the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in Korea was released from his post on the 17th. The message is open to considerable doubt, but, if true, the step must have been instigated by the Chinese Resident, and Korea's attitude towards Japan is probably undergoing another change.

The English force despatched to Seoul on the 17th inst. is reported to consist of 22 marines and five officers. Some papers connect the despatch of a body of men from H.M.S. *Cruiser Archer* to Seoul, with the reported interference of a party of Japanese soldiers with the British Representative while out walking in the Korean capital a few days ago.

It was reported on the 20th that Chinese troops had embarked on transports and war-vessels at Tientsin and Taku, and some accounts even went so far as to say that the vessels had started, but a Tokyo despatch to the *Osaka Asahi* reports that advice has been received by the authorities to the effect that although the troops have embarked on six transports at a point near Sasai Korea they have not yet left.

In view of the report as to the preparations in progress for the withdrawal of the Chinese Minister in Tokyo, the *Asahi's* correspondent writes that he has been to the Legation and failed to obtain confirmation of the news. The Chinese Minister himself said, in response to the correspondent's question, that he should certainly not leave—even if he were advised to leave by the Foreign Office—until he had received orders to return from his own Government. The Minister's wife and two daughters are reported to be preparing to leave by the next mail, and this may have given rise to the report of the Minister's intended withdrawal.

The *Hoch's* Seoul correspondent accuses Mr. Otori of tardiness in his negotiations. He also mentions a conversation between a Japanese and the Russian Minister, in which the latter condemned Japanese despatch of troops, as an attempt to substitute Japanese tyranny for Chinese and asserts that if Japan was anxious to effect reforms in Korea she should have acted in concert with the European powers, for if these agreed with Japan's proposals, China would

been powerless against their demands. It is also stated that the U.S. Minister, with the consent of the other ministers, has complained against the establishment of military telegraphs by Japan.

We learn from "extras" issued by vernacular papers, on the strength of telegrams from their correspondents in Korea, that Mr. Yuan Sel Kai, Chinese Resident at the Korean capital, left Seoul on the night of Wednesday last for Jinsen, where he embarked on a Chinese man-of-war—the *Yung Wo*. It appears— for China. The war vessel left Jinsen on the 19th. The Chinese women in Seoul have left for Jinsen. Things in the capital are reported to be very unsettled. This news looks serious, unless indeed Mr. Yuan has been recalled by the authorities at Peking, which is improbable. There is evidently no doubt that the Chinese Resident has withdrawn. The *Osaka Asahi's* messages are from Seoul and Jinsen, the *Yokohama Specie* from Jinsen. The term used by the *Osaka Journal's* Seoul correspondent to denote Mr. Yuan's departure, literally means "escaped."

## CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

29th July, 1894.—At 4 p.m.

STATION	Bar.	Therm.	Wind.	Force.	Direction.	Cloud.	Sea.	Temp.
Wailan-shan	29.81	83	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Nagasaki	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Fuzhou	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Amoy	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Swatow	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Canton	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Hankow	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Shanghai	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Yokohama	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Manila	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Cebu	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Colon	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
San Francisco	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
San Pedro de Macoris	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
San Juan	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Sanchez	29.74	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
Sancti Spiritus	29.71	82	SE	5	100	100	100	100
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